

**Delight in What the Lord Assigns to You**  
**2024-05-12**

**1 Corinthians 7:17**

*Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.*

*This is my rule in all the churches.*

.... I am **not preaching on Revelations** today... for those who have read Revelations already, you get an extra week of reading. **This is out of the norm...** we are focusing on the **holiday: Mother's Day.**

- **Any first-time moms? First-time grandmas? I'm jealous, because I long to be a grandpa.**
  - **Do not let your life longing become your idol and miss the present joy and the opportunity to glorify Jesus Christ.**

**The Lord created two equally important and valuable genders that reflect His character in very different ways.**

- **Biblical manhood and womanhood is the foundation of a healthy marriage, family, and society.**
  - **Today I am not focusing on gender differences or Biblical manhood or womanhood, but your God-ordained present life calling and situation.**

God's **plan** for **some** is to **glorify Him** through the **gift of singleness or being married without children.** 1 Corinthians 7:8-9, Philippians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 6:6.

- **It is idolatry if your joy and satisfaction is dependent on being married or having children, and not on Jesus Christ.**

**Delight** in God's **present calling** in your life and **use your parental longing to bless** and mold someone else's **children in partnership with God for His glory.**

- **We usually call** those who act as parents "**uncle**" or "**auntie**" even though they are **not related.** Tom and Emily are great examples.
  - **There are singles, married people without kids, empty nesters who serve Jesus, LEFC nursery, or Sunday School.**

**For parents with kids at home, the days can be long with young children, and frustrating with older children.**

- When we struggle **remember** what **Scripture** says **regarding children:** they are a **blessing, reward, and treasure.** Psalm 127:3, 139:13-14, Proverbs 17:6a
  - **If you feel like a failure, remember that you aren't going to parent perfectly, but you ARE the perfect parent for God's purposes for your child.**
    - **Knowing all your weaknesses, the Lord still ordained you as a parent for your children from the foundations of the world.....** 2 Corinthians 3:5, 4:7

- **Trust and hope in Jesus.** He **knows** what He's **doing!** He is **not done** with **you or your children.**

- In the **busy, tired, chaos** of **parenting**, it's easy to **reminisce** about **life before kids** and **miss the joy** and **blessing** of the present **moment**, and it's easy to **long** for an **empty** nest!

**Empty** nesters, be **careful that grandparenting** does **not** become an **idol** or **go** on "**cruise control**" and **withdraw** from **mentoring and serving** Jesus, and the young. *Titus 2:2-5, Job 12:12, Proverbs 20:29*

- Your **calling** as a **life molder for Jesus** is **never over**....by God's **grace** your **godly influence** can **spread** throughout your **family, LEFC, and the world.**
- **You hesitate to mentor** because of your own **failures as parents**...that's the **reason you won't find older people** on parenting **blogs.**
  - **Some of the best council** comes from **failure** not victory!
- The young people of LEFC **need your wisdom**, prayer, example. See *Elliot/Body quotes at the end.*
  - **Be an encourager**.... **not a lecturer** or a **one-upper.**
- Young people, the **older people feel rejected** when **try give** advice, **so they stop** until they are asked.
  - **The problem** in the world and church is that the **same life cycle of people** gets their **primary counsel** from **each other.**
    - It takes **humility and persistence** to **seek council** from **godly older Christians, who are rich** in spiritual and practical **wisdom.** 1 Peter 5:5.

**Don't let your life longing** become your **idol** and **miss** the present **joy** and the **opportunity** to **glorify** JC.

- We **ALL** must be willing to **live a sacrificial life** for Jesus Christ. 1 *Corinthians 7:17, Psalm 37:4*
  - **EVERYONE**....be a **person** of the Book, of the **Word and of prayer.**
    - **The more you behold Jesus Christ, the more you will reflect Him!!!**
- In **every chapter** of your life **find your joy in Jesus** and be **devoted** to the **glory** of **God.**
  - **Don't blink**...life goes **faster** than you **think** -Kenny Chesney.

"Where are the women, single or married, willing to hear God's call to spiritual motherhood, taking spiritual daughters under their wings to school them, as Mom Cunningham did me? She had no training the world would recognize. She had no thought of such. She simply loved God and was willing to be broken bread and poured out wine for His sake. Retirement never crossed her mind."

**Elizabeth Elliot**

Give yourself to your Lord for the service of men with what you have. Cannot He change water into wine? Cannot He make stammering words to be filled with saving power? God has need of thee for the service of thy fellow men. He has a work for thee to do. Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.

***George Body, 1840***